

The mission statement of New Covenant Academy is simple, "New Covenant Academy is a Christian college preparatory school committed to achieving Academic Excellence teaching Biblical Truth and developing Christ-like Character for students grades JK through 12th grade in the greater Springfield area." This is what that small group of dedicated parents wanted and envisioned when they set out to open this school in 1979.

Mr. Speaker, New Covenant Academy has served the Springfield area for the past 40 years. Over that time, they have provided Christian education to many students, and making a lasting impact on the lives of all who walk through their doors. They have achieved their goal through hard work and faith. I am pleased to rise today, honoring a truly tremendous school.

TRIBUTE TO VOCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT CENTER

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 16, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Vocational Development Center (Vodec) of Council Bluffs, Iowa. This year marks the 50th year of operations for the Center, which opened its doors in 1968.

Vodec was founded in Council Bluffs and employs nearly 380 people. This non-profit began as an advocacy group to provide a structured, safe, and sheltered work environment for children graduating from high school with disabilities. Since then, the organization has expanded into Nebraska and eastern Iowa and offers a variety of services including resident support, employment, job placement, and day habilitation. Steve Hodapp, Chief Executive Officer for Vodec said, "As the need for different services arises, we can respond to that. Our strategic plan is designed around being responsive to need. That's what our growth is all about."

Mr. Speaker, I commend and congratulate the Vocational Development Center and its staff for providing cutting-edge services to disabled individuals in the Council Bluffs area, Nebraska, and throughout eastern Iowa for the past 50 years. I urge my colleagues in the United States Congress to join me in congratulating Vodec for their numerous achievements in helping those with disabilities. I wish Vodec and all of their employees continued success in the future.

RECOGNIZING FULBRIGHT SCHOLARS NATASHA BEDNARZ, ANDREA BISCOVEANU, ELIAV EHRENKRANTZ, JULIANA HEFFERN, ROBERT McDONOUGH, JAKE MEYERS, AND ALEXANDRA MILLER

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 16, 2018

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, for more than 70 years, the Fulbright Program, estab-

lished by Congress and funded through an annual appropriation to the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, has forged connections between emerging leaders in the United States and across the globe. Since 1946, more than 380,000 individuals from the United States and over 180 countries have participated in the Fulbright Program. These individuals represent the excellence and diversity of the United States and other countries.

I rise today to recognize the prestigious accomplishments of students from my district who received Fulbright Scholarships for the 2017–2018 academic year:

Ms. Natasha Bednarz, Yardley, PA, Boston College, Armenia

Ms. Andrea Biscoveanu, Yardley, PA, Pennsylvania State University-University Park, Australia

Mr. Eliav Ehrenkrantz, New Hope, PA, University of Massachusetts-Amherst, Russia

Ms. Juliana Heffern, Carversville, PA, Hobart and William Smith Colleges, Malaysia

Mr. Robert McDonough, Trevoise, PA, La Salle University, Austria

Mr. Jake Meyers, Richboro, PA, Washington and Jefferson College, Cambodia

Ms. Alexandra Miller, Newtown, PA, Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania, Argentina

These scholars make us tremendously proud. On behalf of all residents in the Eighth Congressional District, we congratulate them on their outstanding achievements.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONOR FLIGHT OF GREATER LAFAYETTE AND ITS FOUNDERS PAM MOW AND DANA VANN

HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 16, 2018

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, October 16, 2018, The Honor Flight of Greater Lafayette will host its twenty-second and final trip escorting America's Hoosier veterans to Washington, DC, to visit memorials dedicated to honor their service. I rise today to recognize this exceptional organization and the two remarkable women who have dedicated their hearts to its success.

Organization founders Pam Mow and Dana Vann are Gold Star Mothers. Dana's son Senior Airman John Morton, Jr., lost his life in Italy while serving in the Air Force on September 3, 2002. He was 22 years old. On April 12, 2007, Pam Mow lost her son Army Corporal Cody Putnam when he died in combat during Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was 22 years old. These women have already sacrificed so much, yet for the past seven years, they have chosen to honor the lives and service of veterans through the Honor Flight of Greater Lafayette.

The first honor flight from Lafayette, Indiana, took place on April 16, 2012. Since that time over 1,800 veterans have departed the Purdue University Airport to arrive in Washington, D.C., where they and their guardians were able to visit the war memorials and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington Cemetery.

Veterans have told me that viewing the monuments, which honor their service, is a very moving experience. Additionally, they really enjoyed receiving letters of appreciation from relatives, friends, and school children at "Mail Call" and being greeted by hundreds of patriotic, flag-waving Americans on the tarmac when their plane returned to Lafayette. One veteran expressed to me, "It was the best day of my life."

These once in a lifetime Hoosier veteran experiences are because of the dedication, leadership, and work of Pam Mow and Dana Vann. I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude and appreciation for their service to veterans and the community-at-large. It is truly an honor to congratulate them for the twenty-two successful trips of The Honor Flight of Greater Lafayette. May God bless Pam and Dana as they go forward with their lives.

HONORING SARA SEALANDER WITH CALIFORNIA'S THIRD DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 16, 2018

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sara Sealander as a woman of the year. She is an artist, educator, and activist. She taught both Art History and Studio Art classes fulltime at Yuba Community College for 38 years and continues her work teaching as an adjunct professor of Art History. She has long been the leading voice for women in the arts in her community. She created the curriculum for the Women in the Arts classes she teaches, and which are now taught in other schools. She has mentored a whole generation of artists and art instructors in her community and remains passionate about the role of arts in education and society. Ms. Sealander's skill and passion for the arts goes beyond her work into activism. Fueled by threats to eliminate the National Endowment for the Arts, she organized public protests to educate the public about the importance of the NEA to society and its impact in our local community. She also founded a local chapter of Guerilla Girls, an international group of feminist activist artists who use their artistic talents to make social commentary. Ms. Sealander's activism works to promote the importance of art to community and society. She continues to be an inspiration to young artists and the next generation of arts instructors at all levels of education in the Yuba-Sutter community. She generously gives her time to curate an annual Art Faculty Art show and has devoted many hours to the Yuba College Fine Arts Alumni group. She makes time to mentor graduates, ensuring that the value of art in her community will never be lost. She has devoted her career to promoting the arts and without her devotion to the importance of art, the artistic community of the Yuba-Sutter area would not be what it is today.

GREEN BERET SERGEANT FIRST
CLASS CALVIN B. HARRISON
COLDSRING, TEXAS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 16, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Green Berets are a special type of soldier. You have to be the best of the best: smart, tough, and an almost supernatural strength of will. Their qualification and training process is the toughest in the business—not just anyone can be a Green Beret. Everything is tested, from your language ability to physical fitness to your most basic but most difficult task: survival. They push you to your max and when you are just about to break, they push you harder. The training is so hard because they know what you are going to face: impossible, top-secret missions that must be done. But when you get through it all you have a physical and mental toughness that can survive even the most extreme conditions. You are not just a soldier—you are a true warrior.

That's what Sergeant First Class Calvin B. Harrison was: a true warrior. Harrison's awards and decorations include the Purple Heart, the Meritorious Service Medal, Bronze Star Medal, Army Commendation Medal, two Army Achievement Medals, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Kosovo Campaign Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon with numeral three, Army Service Ribbon, Special Forces Tab, Combat Infantryman Badge and Parachutist Badge.

Born in the small town of Coldspring, Texas, on March 11, 1979, Calvin had a big heart from a young age. He was always looking out for other people, trying to do what was right to the best of his ability. The son of Jack Washington and Betty Harrison, he was the 4th of 6 kids. His siblings are Demetric, Diane, Debra, Stephanie, and Zacchaeus.

He was also a relentlessly hard-worker. When he was a child, he helped his grandfather do yard work around town. His grandfather even taught him to drive. He was close to his family and loved them very much. One day, when Calvin was working at Country Groceries, a customer walked in, looked him right in the eye and said "You're never gonna be nothin." Calvin would remember that moment the rest of his life, even recalling to his dad the last time he was home.

In high school, Calvin turned his work ethic toward sports. He was an all-around athlete, playing basketball, football, and tennis. When he graduated in 1998, he followed in his grandfather's footsteps and signed up for the Army. He loved being a soldier, said his father, Jack Washington. He was a true patriot who wanted to serve his country.

In 2007, Sgt. Harrison became a Green Beret. His 7th Special Forces Group was very close. They had all gone through the same rigorous training and knew that when their lives depended on it, they could trust each other.

Each team member had a role. For Sgt. Harrison, this was Medical Sergeant. Special Forces Medical Sergeants are considered to

be the finest first-response medical technicians in the world. When his fellow soldier went down, it was Sgt. Harrison that jumped to his rescue. His comrades knew at a very practical level that their lives were in his hands.

The Green Beret motto is "De oppresso liber" which means to liberate the oppressed. That is exactly what Sgt. Harrison was doing as a part of the Company A, 2nd Battalion, 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne) in Afghanistan. Sgt. Harrison couldn't talk too much about his top secret job, but he didn't mind. He was never one to talk about himself too much. He just did it. It wasn't special to him. He just did the best he could with everything he tried.

It was his second tour and mission that Sgt. Harrison would give his life for. He was killed by small arms fire on September 29, 2010 in Uruzgan province in Afghanistan.

"He died what he loved doing," said his father. "I'm very proud of him, and I told him that all the time." Sgt. Harrison left behind two precious daughters, Azalia and Eleanna.

David Lloyd George, a former British Prime Minister, once said, "The stern hand of fate has scourged us to an elevation where we can see the great everlasting things that matter for a nation; the great peaks of honor we had forgotten—duty and patriotism, clad in glittering white; the great pinnacle of sacrifice pointing like a rugged finger to heaven." Sgt. Harrison climbed up both of those peaks—honor and duty—and now we can look up to heaven with gratitude and thanks for his eternal reminder that freedom is not free. Texas is proud to have called him a soldier, a son, and a hero.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING THE SERVICE AND LEGACY OF THE HONORABLE ARLAN MEEKHOF

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 16, 2018

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Arlan Meekhof and his admirable career in public service to the West Michigan Community.

A lifelong resident of West Michigan, Arlan has earned the admiration of his colleagues and the respect of Ottawa County residents by consistently acting with decency and integrity. An accomplished legislator, Senator Meekhof has cemented a legacy of public service and servant leadership throughout the state of Michigan.

First elected to the Olive Township Board of Trustees in 1996, Senator Meekhof has continued to serve the people of West Michigan for over two decades. In 2007, he began his first term in the Michigan House of Representatives and was elected assistant leader by his colleagues in January 2009. In November of 2010 he was elected to the State Senate in the 30th State Senate District, representing Ottawa County and the City of Grandville and Sparta Township in Kent County. Following his 2014 reelection to the State Senate, he was unanimously elected to be Senate Majority leader—displaying the respect Senator Meekhof has cultivated during his career.

In his eight years serving in the Michigan Senate, he has been a commendable leader

that ensured on-time and balanced budgets. His leadership contributed and played a key role to the elimination of a billion dollar state deficit. During his time in both the House and Senate, he promoted efficient and effective government reforms that played a significant role in transforming Michigan into a destination for families, businesses and the next generation of leaders.

Today, October 16, 2018, we honor and recognize Senator Arlan Meekhof for his two-decades long career. The efforts and success of Senator Arlan Meekhof in service to his community should be celebrated. I thank him for a lifetime of hard work and service.

TRIBUTE TO MARILYN AND LLOYD WILSON

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 16, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Marilyn and Lloyd Wilson of Atlantic, Iowa on the very special occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary. They were married on September 7, 1958 at the First Presbyterian Church in Griswold, Iowa.

Marilyn and Lloyd's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 60th anniversary, I hope it is filled with happy memories. May their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 60th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

COMMEMORATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

HON. BRENDA L. LAWRENCE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 16, 2018

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan, on the occasion of its 150th—or sesquicentennial—celebration. Located in the heart of Detroit, Wayne State University is ranked among our nation's best research institutions, educates over 27,000 students among 13 schools and colleges, and is the eighth-largest employer in the city of Detroit.

In addition to educating and training leaders in research, the arts, law, and medicine, Wayne State University has for over 150 years, consistently served the people of Detroit, the great state of Michigan and our nation. Wayne State University began, and has remained, in Detroit—a city that has seen the highest heights and the deepest depths, and is now reinventing the very definition of the great American city.

Through the tireless work and effort of its first university president, Dr. Edward W.